

DECLASSIFIED

8/1/14

Date:

Initial:

jhl

From: DENNIS MUNHALL
To: MALLECK-JOHN, SOTO-DENISE, CONETTA-BENNY, VAUGHN-R...
Date: 2/10/99 10:59am
Subject: Gloucester 2/4/99 Ground Water Meeting Notes

Notes from 2/4/99 meeting at Gloucester Health Dept.

A meeting was held at the Gloucester Health Department to discuss ground water contamination, primarily mercury, appearing in drinking water wells.

EPA Confidential

Attendance: Gloucester Health Dept, Gloucester Planning Dept., DEP, EPA)

Gloucester County Health Department: Has been sampling for mercury throughout county. No QA/QC associated with this sampling, although backup information is available for validation. Sample analysis has only been for mercury at most sample points.

The Planning Department has been plotting mercury contaminated wells, and other information, using ArcView (EPA will obtain mapping files). There appears to be a vague correlation between historic gravel pit operations and the mercury contamination. However, no substantive source information is known - rumors are floating.

Gloucester County is undertaking a large scale residential sampling effort which is likely to result in the sampling of roughly 1,000 additional wells.

To date, approximately 800 samples have been taken, over 60 wells exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for mercury (2 parts per billion, ppb). The highest detection of mercury was 21 ppb.

Data was also shown indicating tetrachloroethylene (PCE) residential well contamination. The County has not pursued this further, as resources are being directed toward the mercury sampling effort.

There is little information regarding residential wells depths.

The county is advising residents with mercury above 2 ppb not to drink untreated water. It was decided at the meeting that it would be prudent to advise residents with levels above 20 ppb to restrict showering.

DEP: Will address clusters of mercury contaminated homes as "sites" through DEP's hazardous waste remediation program. Residents are submitting claims against the Spill Fund. DEP stated that in areas not served by water lines, the likely response will be point-of-entry treatment systems, or POETS. DEP is required to conduct a source investigation as part of their effort, and a cost analysis of any potential response.

As of 2/4/99, 26 claims have been filed against the Spill Fund. 16 of the residents filing claims are not in areas served by public water.

USGS: Phase I of the joint USGS/DEP regional ground water study has been completed. Phase II will begin this spring, and will include the installation

247767



of monitoring wells (clusters) and residential sampling. This study will attempt to identify sources, and is expected to be completed by Spring, 2000. USGS sampling will include full-scan data analysis.

The USGS/DEP study area is not limited to Gloucester County.

EPA: Walter Andrews (drinking water), Denise Soto and myself (Superfund) attended the meeting. Currently, the Superfund program is conducting an investigation of contaminated wells in Monroe Township (Gloucester County). These wells are NOT currently a National Priorities List (NPL) site.

The wells have been impacted by PCE and mercury. Individual municipal wells have exceeded the MCLs for these compounds (the MCL for PCE, a solvent, is 5 ppb) for both. However, the wells are not distributing water exceeding MCLs (one wells has treatment, and it appears that the water authority is using pumping and blending variations to keep the water within safe limits). Other VOCs have been detected in this well system as well.

EPA discussed the issues pertaining to the Monroe Township wells at this meeting. Gloucester County was not aware of the data we have. They also pointed out that neighboring Washington Township has demonstrated PCE in their municipal water (Washington Township Well #18).

Superfund management/staff (Regional Decision Team) plan to meet separately in the coming weeks with the USGS researchers conducting the ground water work.

Outcome: USGS, DEP and Gloucester County will coordinate sampling as to not duplicate efforts. QA/QC information will be obtained for all samples. Gloucester County is willing to add other compounds to their data analysis (such as VOCs, nitrates, chlorides...)

USGS and DEP stated that the mercury was not naturally occurring. However, sources could be wide spread and complicated by the addition of mobilizers to the soil (such as VOC contamination or a significant change in pH).

DEP will begin looking at mercury contamination clusters as "sites".

Radium in ground water did not come up as an issue at this meeting.

Residents are concerned, and there is increasing pressure on the County Health Department from the County Freeholder.

EPA Superfund will follow up on issues raised concerning Washington Township Wells (PCE contamination), as well as one potential source which is likely a NJ ISRA site.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at extension 4343:

Thanks
Dennis

Actual attendance:

William Atkinson, GCHD, 609.262.4220

Don Schneider, GCHD, 609.262.4220

Rick Westergaard, Gloucester County Planning Dept, 609.863.6661

Mark Waters, Gloucester County Planning Dept, 609.863.6661

Zoltan Szabo, USGS, 609.771.3929

Dr. Tony Navoy, USGS, 609.771.3930

Eileen Murphy, DEP Science & Research, 609.633.2342

Bob Gallagher, DEP Remedial / Spill Fund, 609.633.9284

Walter Andrews, EPA Drinking Water

Denise Soto, EPA Superfund

Dennis Munhall, EPA Superfund